leave the station at each appointed hour, and should not, for want of a sufficient number of passengers or other similar reason, be permitted to take the next turn.

Restrictions regarding the intervals to pass between the starting of different buses from the same station in the same direction or in different directions should be abolished. The intervals should at least be reduced.

For unlawful canvassing of passengers by agents, bus-owners should also be made answerable as principal offenders.

The number of Traffic Inspectors should be raised.

Roads along which buses had to pass should be widened, so as to leave sufficient room for pedestrian traffic.

Tolls on motor vehicles should be abolished and should be replaced by a duty on petrol.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Parameswara Panikkar, several of your practical suggestions promise to be useful and I shall request the Commissioner of Police to consider them sympathetically. He has now under preparation a scheme and received rules for the better control and more efficient working of traffic by motor transport over the roads of Travancore. But I do not think that the materialising of one of your suggestions will be welcomed, namely that honorary boards should be appointed in each taluk to try every driver connected with every offence. Certainly we should save the useful individual driver if he is to be subjected to such inquisitions through every taluk he traverses.

Then you suggest that tolls should be abolished and that a duty should be levied on petrol. Under the Interportal Trade Convention we are not at liberty to impose a duty upon petrol which comes mostly through Cochin or Madras by rail.

181. Administrative reforms.

MR. N. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Member, Neyyatinkara taluk, Group I*) said that the prosperity of Travancore depended in no small measure upon the increased out-put of articles like copra, rubber etc., the discovery of suitable markets for these commodities in foreign countries and the making of adequate arrangements for the sale of these commodities in these markets. These were matters which could be left in the hands of a separate Department of Commerce and of commercial agents. Government had of late turned its attention to this subject and they had organised a Chamber of Commerce at Alleppey. It was imperative that they should devote more and more attention to this subject in future.

As at present organised the Sanitary Department of the State was existing in a very antiquarian form. Its activities in respect of public health administration were very poor. It should be reorganised on up-to-date lines and it should be made to attend to the all-important problem of rural sanitation in an effective manner.

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The Department of Industries was another department which was arid in its achievements. If the department had not enough work to do, it might very well be placed under the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries. The latter officer also would then get sufficient work. The silk farm, the cattle farm, and the fruit farm at the Cape should be retained only if after a careful investigation they were found to yield any good results.

Irrigation works should be transferred from the control of the Public Works Department to that of the Department of Agriculture. Irrigation boards should be established in each taluk and they should be coordinated with the proposed Road Boards. The allotment for irrigation works in the current year's Budget should be enhanced. The system of recovering a moiety of the cost of tank restoration works from ryots should be abolished.

The vernacular schools in the State should be placed under three Range Inspectors as of old and the Director of Public Instruction should not be allowed to appropriate to himself the immediate control of these institutions.

The salaries of subordinate officers in all departments should be enhanced.

An Executive Council should be established in the State. The creation of such a body would relieve the Dewan of much of the pressure of work that he was experiencing at present. It would ensure a continuity of policy in the administration which it was otherwise impossible to secure. A council responsible to the people would also inspire confidence in them in regard to the administration of the country. The council should consist, besides the Dewan, of two members elected by the Legislative Council and one member elected by the Assembly. The Dewan should deal with the subjects which might be 'reserved', while the other subjects should be distributed among the other members. Elected members of the council should hold office only so long as they had the confidence of the respective houses which elected them.

The powers of the Legislative Council should be revised. The number and scope of reserved subjects should be reduced. The system of nominating non-official members should be stopped and special constituencies should be formed instead. The council should also be given the power of electing its own president.

Changes should be made in the constitution and powers of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly. The Assembly should have the right of being consulted on all questions of general importance, of asking questions, passing resolutions and discussing the annual Budget estimates.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Padmanabha Pillai, the question that you touched upon in regard to the present and future economic position of Travancore will be studied by the Director of Agriculture and also will be placed on record by the Government to deal with as these

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matters have to be kept steadily in mind for several years to come. I quite agree with you that our Sanitary Department is not at present sufficiently strong to cope with devastating epidemics like the last cholera epidemic in South Travancore and the resources of the Medical Department had to be called in to a large extent to supplement the existing Sanitary Department. The question of public health in Travancore and the agency to be created and the manner in which it should operate are all questions that are now under consideration in connection with the arrival of the representative of the Rockefeller Foundation. We will formulate a programme of activities and before very long we will be well on in adopting revised methods. Rural sanitation which you mentioned will also receive attention in that connection.

You referred to minor irrigation. I have before me now proposals for providing a more effective agency for dealing with it with promptitude. The whole question of minor irrigation will I trust come to a settlement before long.

The Director of Public Instruction is studying the whole position of vernacular education and the adequacy of the existing arrangements and I have no doubt that after he has had sufficient time to study the position in all its aspects, he will put up his proposals before the Government.

In regard to the Executive Council and the form of Government in Travancore I will give a collective reply to all members who may speak upon that subject.

The Assembly adjourned for lunch at 2-6 P. M. and reassembled at 3 P. M.

182. Administrative reforms with special reference to rural reconstruction.

MR. N. MADHAVAN NAIR (*Member, Trivandrum taluk, Group II*) said that in order to improve the economic condition of the State it was absolutely necessary to establish self-governing institutions in the rural areas. The work which the Sanitary Department did towards the maintenance of public health in these regions was very meagre, while so far as other aspects of rural life were concerned there was no agency responsible for attending to them. In olden days Dewan Peishkars, Tahsildars and even Proverthicars used to get into touch with the people and to ascertain their needs and wishes. The general well-being of the people formed one of their main concerns. But now it was not so. The proper remedy for this was to bring into existence the Village Panchayats contemplated under the Village Panchayats Regulation and to entrust them with the task of rural reconstruction. The Regulation was passed several years ago, but the rules under it were not yet passed. This should be done soon.

An economic survey of the State should be undertaken as early as possible. Such a survey would enable one to measure the progress already made in the working of the various development departments

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